

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 392

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past five years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas visionary Israeli leaders like Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon were at the forefront of creating conditions for peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with May 3, 2006: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the independence of the State of
4 Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and
5 a national homeland for the Jewish people;

6 (2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all
7 United States administrations and United States
8 Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work
9 for its security and well-being;

10 (3) congratulates the United States and Israel
11 for the strengthening of bilateral relations in the
12 past year in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and
13 homeland security and encourages both nations to
14 continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual
15 challenges; and

1 (4) extends warm congratulations and best
2 wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the
3 58th anniversary of Israel's independence.

Passed the House of Representatives May 2, 2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Recognizing the 58th anniversary of the
independence of the State of Israel.